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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. [REDACTED]

COUNTRY Argentina

SUBJECT Remarks of Public Works Minister Juan Pistarini

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

The following is a summary of remarks attributed to General Juan Pistarini, Argentine Minister of Public Works, [REDACTED] on 23 November 1948.

1. Pistarini will not resign his cabinet post. His term of office normally will end in 1951.
2. He is unaware of any contemplated cabinet changes. New departments will be added, however, after the constitutional reform is settled.
3. There is a strong current of Nationalism in official circles which, at this time, can be combatted only with difficulty. The Minister believes the best solution is to be patient and "not push things," or else "we might find ourselves being pushed". He believes the new United States military mission will be an asset in strengthening Argentine-United States relations and in counteracting Nationalism.
4. Answering a direct question on the progress of the Five Year Plan, Pistarini stated that the plan is coming along very well, although not at the accelerated pace originally scheduled for it. Miranda, he said, has "made some mistakes" and the plan "must suffer a few cuts".

5. Comment. [REDACTED] was particularly impressed by Pistarini's apparently sincere pro-United States attitude and by his attempts to improve Argentine-United States relations.) On the subject of the United States Pistarini made these statements:

- a. The United States is an extraordinary country. Exceptionally advanced, it makes all other countries, including pre-war Germany, look very small and weak by comparison. Many Argentines have been mistaken about the United States, but now they must and will carry out a policy of renewed friendship with her.
- b. The (North) Americans are great fighters, a fact which was not appreciated in Argentina until the end of World War II. Pre-war German influence in the Argentine army was largely responsible for Argentina's misconception of the United States' military strength.

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